

New Director for Ryedale Folk Museum

Jennifer Smith has been appointed as the new director of the Ryedale Folk Museum and foresees an exciting time ahead for this key North York Moors attraction.

The Ryedale Folk Museum board is pleased to announce the appointment of Jennifer Smith as the new director. Jennifer joins the museum from the North York Moors National Park Authority where she managed the successful delivery of a major Heritage Lottery Fund supported project. Having previously worked in the museum sector, Jennifer understands the needs of running a heritage attraction as well bringing a wealth of experience in volunteer management, interpretation and visitor engagement.

Commenting on the appointment, Chair of the board, Tony Clark said “We are delighted to welcome Jennifer to our wonderful museum. She takes over at an exciting time and brings to the post the necessary skills and enthusiasm to the lead team. We’ve recently won the small visitor attraction of the year award and I am sure this is the start of a fantastic time for the museum.”

Jennifer commented “I am thrilled and proud to be given this great opportunity. After seven years working in the area it is lovely to be able to continue working with and for the local community. I am passionate about museums and the Ryedale Folk Museum is a very special place.

“The museum has undertaken some ambitious projects in the last few years including the opening of the Harrison Collection. I hope to build on the museum’s achievements as well as trying some new things to ensure the museum can look forward to a long and happy future.”

The Ryedale Folk Museum will celebrate its 50th birthday next year and preparations to mark its half century are already underway with a programme of special events planned.

Notes for editors

1. The Ryedale Folk Museum is a registered charity and fully accredited independent museum. The museum was established in 1964 as an educational establishment. It now welcomes over 26,000 paying visitors each year as well as 4000 school children taking part in the museum’s formal learning programme. It is located in the village of Hutton-le-Hole in the North York Moors National Park, North Yorkshire.
2. The Harrison Collection is an extraordinary collection of artefacts amassed over decades by local brothers Edward and Richard Harrison. The collection, covering five centuries of history, was donated to the museum and around half the collection was put on permanent display in 2012.
3. Around 150 volunteers support the work of the museum every day
4. The museum has recently won the White Rose Awards Small Visitor Attraction of the Year 2013.
5. Attached photographs are copyright of Phil West Photography – please credit.

Media contact

Jennifer Smith, Director

01751 417367

jennifer@ryedalefolkmuseum.co.uk